

Information sharing by Parties

1. A representative of Armenia elaborated on the current situation of air quality monitoring and national emission inventory. Currently, the air quality management policy in Armenia is being built on the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between Armenia, the European Union and the European Atomic Energy in 2017. The roadmap for CEPA implementation includes actions related to three European Union directives related to the air quality management (Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2004/107/EC and Directive 2004/107/EC). The national air pollution monitoring is carried out by the Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center (HMC) a state non-commercial organization under the Ministry of Environment. The monitoring is carried out through a hybrid observation network consisting of 15 main active sampling stations, 1 EMEP monitoring station and 214 passive sampling points. The following pollutants are measured: nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ground level ozone, dust and heavy metals in dust. The weekly, monthly and annual data are published on the HMC webpage.¹ Moreover, high concentrations of pollutants (exceedance of maximum permissible concentrations) are reported to the Ministry of Health and the Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources. However, nowadays there is no real-time monitoring data available for data users and public. Since 2008, under the requirements of EMEP, the air quality monitoring station has been in operation managed by HMC. HMC participated in the EMEP laboratory intercomparisons and WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) QA-SAC for Interlaboratory Comparison Studies. Armenia reports annually to the Convention its national emission inventory. With the support the UNECE secretariat, several workshops had been organized to improve the skills of national experts in developing national emission inventories and preparation of the Informative Inventory Report in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. As a result of the capacity building activities the national emission inventory has been essentially improved and since 2018 Armenia has submitted the Informative Inventory Report. The future steps include: (i) upgrade of the capacity of the EMEP station; (ii) integration of the air pollutant and greenhouse gases inventories; (iii) modernization of the air quality monitoring system in accordance with international requirements, and connection of local data to global networks and web portals; (iv) provision of real-time data to the public for better management of air pollution; (v) introduction of air pollution modeling and forecasting system; linkage to the satellite data.

2. A representative of Azerbaijan recalled that Azerbaijan acceded the Air Convention in 2002 but has not yet ratified any of the protocols. However, Azerbaijan is determined to ratify the protocols and consequently meet their requirements. The improvement of air quality is one of the main priorities of state policy in Azerbaijan. The road transport is a key sector with regard to air pollution in Azerbaijan. The increasing number of imported vehicles to the country as well as the high intensity of traffic pose health and environmental challenges. A number of measures are implemented to reduce road transport impacts e.g. by creating bicycle lanes, promotion of environmentally sound transport and exemption from VAT for imported electric vehicles since 1 January 2019. He also briefed about the recently installed air monitoring stations: 3 of these stations were installed in Baku, one station in Ganja and another one in Sumgayit. The stations were equipped with devices and equipment of the world's leading manufacturer of environmental analyzers. A mobile laboratory equipped with modern devices and equipment was also purchased for operational control of environmental components in areas not covered by stationary monitoring stations.

3. A representative of Georgia briefed about recent emission reporting under the Convention and improvement of air quality monitoring. In 2021, Georgia for the first time submitted emission inventory for full time series (1990-2019) and emission projection report. Moreover, Georgia submitted the Informative Inventory Report and Large Point Source data. During the development of the national

¹ See www.meteomonitoring.am.

emission inventory, Georgia considered the comments and recommendations provided in the report for the Stage 3 in-depth review of Georgia's emission inventory. There are 8 automatic monitoring stations in Georgia, one of which is mobile. Quarterly passive sampling campaigns are conducted in 25 municipalities. In 2021, three gravimetric equipment were purchased and by the end of the year monitoring of cadmium, arsenic, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene would start. By the end of 2021, new mobile equipment would be bought. Through the support of the Swedish Government, European and national experts prepared detailed roadmap for development of ambient air quality monitoring network based on which monitoring system would cover newly established air quality zones and agglomerations. Under the above-mentioned support, Georgia works on establishment of air quality modeling system and improvement of quality assurance and quality control. Information on ambient air quality is available on Georgian Ambient Air Quality Portal,² where together with environmental quality situation, near real time data from automatic stations are available.

4. A representative of the Republic of Moldova recalled that it is a Party since 1995 and so far, ratified merely two protocols: EMEP and the Heavy Metals Protocol. She elaborated on the monitoring of air quality which is supervised by the Environmental Agency established in 2018. Monitoring of the air quality in urban areas is performed using the manual technical approach at fixed monitoring stations (6 stations in Chisinau, 2 in Balti, and 3 in Tiraspol). The samples are collected 3 times daily. For estimation of air quality in the territory of Moldova, guidance is followed approved by the Ministry of Health in the 1990s. The target value is related only to human health. The approved norms to estimate the air pollution refer to concentration levels (20-minute, daily and annual averages) for nitrogen and sulphur dioxides. The monitored data and maps are publicly available.³ The Environmental Agency cooperates with international partners like the German Agency for International Cooperation and the Japan International Cooperation Agency to improve the laboratory of environmental monitoring and monitoring sampling. A working group is in charge of air pollutant national emission inventory and emission reporting under the Convention. The group consists of experts from the Institute of Chemistry, the Institute of Ecology and Geography and the Institute of Power Engineering. The air pollutant inventory is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Agency. There are gaps and incomplete reporting of gridded emissions and emission projections. To improve these two elements, Moldova works with the Convention Secretariat. Moldova is very grateful to the Secretariat for the provided support including the organization of the seminar "Preparation of reports in grid emissions under the UNECE Convention on long-range air pollution" (16-18 March 2021). The local experts gained the experience on gridded emission estimation from experts of the Scientific International Institute Atmosphere from Saint Petersburg. Also, Moldova is grateful for other seminars developed by the Secretariat in the last two years. On behalf of the Ministry of Environment, we would like to ask the Secretariat of the Convention to support Moldova on emission projections and emission reductions targets in line with the requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol. Regarding the emissions projections, Moldova also cooperates with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Stockholm Environment Institute by learning the Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning – Integrated Benefits Calculator - an integrated planning tool to help governments jointly assess the greenhouse gases, short-lived climate pollutants and other air pollutant emissions, build mitigation scenarios and understand how emission reductions benefit the climate, health, and crops.

² See air.gov.ge.

³ See <http://www.meteo.md/index.php/mediu/hri-zilnice-privind-poluarea-aerului-atmosferic/>.